



Hello Hamilton County

September 20, 2007

E-News for Hamilton County citizens and employees

Quote of the week: ***"We should be taught not to wait for inspiration to start a thing. Action always generates inspiration."***

~ Frank Tibolt

Hamilton County Communications Center Director to Chair Nationwide Initiative to Help Children



Bill Hinkle, The Director of the Hamilton County Communications Center has been named to chair a nation-wide 9-1-1 Communications Center initiative to help missing children.

The initiative's purpose is to create and promote best practices for effective intake and response to reports of missing children nationwide. The goals are to:

- Promote awareness of the critical role of the 9-1-1 center in handling missing and exploited children calls.
- Develop and endorse best practices to include the minimum performance levels and performance measures for evaluating effectiveness.
- Develop and disseminate tools to improve skills of communication staff to respond to reports of missing children.
- Develop and deliver training for communications staff to effectively respond to reports of missing children.

The National Emergency Number Association, The Association of Public Safety Officials International, The National Academies of Emergency Dispatch, The National Amber Alerts Initiative, and the National Center for Exploited & Missing Children have announced their alliance in launching this 9-1-1 Communications Center Initiative.

Bill Hinkle says, "Fundamental to our mission is a recommitment to the principle that there is nothing that we do that is more important than protecting children. I am proud to represent Hamilton County in this national outreach initiative to improve the manner in which 9-1-1 centers receive and process reports of missing and abducted children."

Hamilton County is pleased to be playing a key role in this important initiative.



Organizations Can Benefit by Using The Hamilton County Board of MR/DD's General Assembly's Services



Employees at General Assembly, Inc. work on an assembly project.

If you need someone to label envelopes for mailing, collate items, or assemble and package products with multiple pieces, Hamilton County can help!

The Hamilton County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (HCBMR/DD) provides a specialized employment and production service called General Assembly. General Assembly, Inc. provides fully staffed production services in which a business' work can be completed.

How does it work? Anyone who has a job that might be right for General Assembly can call and describe the job and receive a preliminary cost quote over the phone. Then, General Assembly will pick up a sample of the

items needed for the job, so the employees at General Assembly can do a test run. Once the test run is completed, General Assembly calls back with a firm price quote. If an organization decides to move forward with the project, General Assembly will pick up all materials and will deliver the finished product to the organization.

Behind the scenes, the supervisory staff who work for HCBMR/DD are trained to identify the supports and adaptations needed for each General Assembly employee. Jobs are carefully assigned to employees, ensuring a win-win situation for both the workers and the businesses.

Companies and governmental agencies can benefit from enter-

ing into a business relationship with General Assembly, Inc, because they get the opportunity to add profit or cost-containment to their bottom line. And there is another major benefit. Working with General Assembly also assures that our citizens with the most significant disabilities are tax-paying adults with the same opportunity to reach goals that most everyone desires — a meaningful, productive life spent engaged in a respected activity with a just wage.

If you have a job for General Assembly, please contact:

Steve Peters—
Sales Representative
General Assembly, Inc.
Steve.peters@hamilton-co.org
513-379-7861



Hamilton County Kicks-Off *Fresh Ideas* Program!

The Hamilton County *Fresh Ideas* program will have a formal kickoff on event Tuesday, September 25th. The *Fresh Ideas* program encourages and rewards individual employees for sharing practical ideas that benefit Hamilton County by improving efficiency, enhancing services, or generating savings or revenue. Employees who participate in *Fresh Ideas* may earn rewards such as cash, gift certificates, tickets to sporting or arts events, free parking downtown, or a one-day paid leave.

During the kickoff event, employees who work under the Board of County Commissioners are invited to stop by the County Administration Building's Room 605 anytime between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. There, the employees can learn more about Fresh Ideas while participating in raffles, games, and other fun activities. The Program's Coordinator, Kim Pennekamp, says, "Bring your curiosity, questions, and of course, your *Fresh Ideas*! Your ideas are valuable to you and Hamilton County!"



Fresh Ideas Kickoff

**For Employees of
Departments under the
Board of County
Commissioners**

**Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2007
11 a.m.—1 p.m.
CAB Rm 605**

**Stop by for a few min-
utes within that two
hour period!**



Caring Family Needed for Kamiya

**Kamiya
Born August 3, 2001**

This energetic and active little girl loves to get other people's attention! Kamiya has a terrific smile, an infectious laugh and beautiful eyes and just wants to be part of a family that loves her.

Kamiya is eager and loves her individualized education program at school, especially art class. After school this sweet child likes to play with her blocks or watch cartoons. She listens to all kinds of music and really loves to be held. Kamiya eats all kinds of food, but sometimes needs help feeding herself.

Kamiya would mesh well with a calm family who will be patient in teaching her how to deal with and communicate emotions appropriately, including anger and aggression. She will require intermittent therapy, medication and lifelong supervision.

**To learn more about Kamiya or others available for adoption,
please call 513-632-6366
or go to www.hcadopt.org.**



Small Businesses Invited to Participate in The Public Entities Small Business Collaborative Annual Workshop



Participants networked during the 2006 Public Entities Small Business Collaborative Annual Workshop.

The Public Entities Small Business Collaborative invites representatives from small businesses to their Annual Workshop. The Annual Workshop helps small businesses that are interested in providing goods and/or services to local public entities. At the event, the Collaborative members will share information about their supplier diversity programs. If you're running a small business, you're welcome to come meet the program managers, learn about the advantages of various certifications, and hear about helpful resources that can positively influence your business.

The Public Entities Collaborative members include the City of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Public Schools, Hamilton County, the Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI), and the Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority. Representatives from each of these organizations will share information during the Annual Workshop. The Annual Workshop will take place:

Friday, October 12, 2007
8 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
At Techsolve
6705 Steger Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45237

Please register by Wednesday, October 3. The registration fee is \$25 per person, and it includes materials and a continental breakfast. To register, you may send a completed registration form and a check payable to Cincinnati Public Schools to:

Beverly Holland
Senior Specialist
Supplier Diversity
Cincinnati Public Schools
P.O. Box 5384
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201-5384

For more information or to get a registration form, please call 513-363-0474.



Read All About It!

The Hamilton County Homeowner Preservation Initiative is making a difference by helping prevent foreclosures. Read all about it in the September 4 edition of the *Business Courier of Cincinnati* at this link:

<http://Cincinnati.bizjournals.com/cincinnati/stories/2007/09/03/daily2.html>



Hamilton County Commissioners Recognize Employees for Project Gain Success



Hamilton County Commissioners (from left to right) Pepper, Portune, and DeWine, along with County Administrator Patrick Thompson, commend Tom VonKorff for the money saving Project Gain submission.

Joe Feldkamp and Tom VonKorff were recognized at the September 12, 2007 Board of County Commissioners' Public Hearing for their Project Gain entry, which required going beyond their normal scope of duties to provide a cost savings for Hamilton County.

Feldkamp and VonKorff work for the Department of Administrative Services at Paul Brown Stadium. When it was time to renew the preventative maintenance contract for two large scoreboards and various ribbonboards, they spotted an opportunity to reduce costs. They determined that by doing some of the work using less costly vendors and by performing some of the work in-house, they could save money. The contract was renegotiated, and the savings to the County over five years will be \$127,000.

By submitting their cost-saving idea to Project Gain, VonKorff and Feldkamp each earned a \$1,000 award.



Please post Hello Hamilton County, so everyone can see what's going on!

Hello Hamilton County is published twice each month. It is designed to inform citizens and employees about news and events related to Hamilton County government and our community in general. You can find current and archived editions on the County's web pages. If you have questions, suggestions, or article submissions, please contact Laura Maus or Eric Stuckey.

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